

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/071 W

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R 261028 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6368

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJ: VOA PROGRAMMING

REF: A) RIVES- ENDERS OFFICIAL- INFORMAL, MAY 4, 1973

B) STATE 090877

1. AFTER MONITORING VOA KHMER LANGUAGE BROADCASTS FOR A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS AND DISCUSSING THE QUALITY OF THESE BROADCASTS WITH A NUMBER OF KHMER CONTACTS, POST KHMER LANGUAGE OFFICER HAS CONCLUDED THAT FEARS REGARDING POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS OF VOA KHMER ANNOUNCERS EXPRESSED IN REF A ARE GROUNDLESS.

2. THE MOST NOTABLE FACT ABOUT THE KHMER LANGUAGE BROADCASTS IS THE AMERICAN MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE PRESENTED. THE PROGRAMS APPEAR TO CONSIST LARGELY OF A SIMPLE TRANSLATION INTO KHMER OF THE NEWS AND FEATURES BROADCAST IN THE VOA ENGLISH SERVICE, THE RESULT IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF STRAIN UPON THE KHMER LANGUAGE, WHICH IS NOT DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE THE DETAIL AND COMPLEXITY WHICH SUCH MATERIAL OFTEN REQUIRES (MANY OF THE COMPLEXITIES ARE LOST ON THE AVERAGE KHMER IN ANY CASE). THE EFFECT IS EMPHASIZED BY THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE KHMER ANNOUNCERS, TO JUDGE FROM THEIR SPOKEN KHMER, CONFIDENTIAL

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APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN ABSENT FROM CAMBODIA FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD. AS A RESULT MANY KHMER ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE ANNOUNCERS ARE ACTUALLY KHMER OR AMERICANS. ALTHOUGH THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM, SOME CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING KHMER ANNOUNCERS HOME FROM TIME TO TIME FOR A REFRESHER COURSE IN CURRENT USAGE AND TO MAKING AN EFFORT TO FURTHER KHMERIZE THE PROGRAMMING.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW IT WOULD BE OF MUCH ADVANTAGE TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF VOA TIME DEVOTED TO KHMER LANGUAGE BROADCASTS UNLESS AN EFFORT IS MADE TO FURTHER DIVERSIFY PROGRAMMING. A SIMPLE REPEAT OF THE SAME PROGRAMS, WHICH ARE ALREADY BROADCAST TWICE, WOULD PROBABLY BE MARGINAL BENEFIT, IN THIS CONNECTION SOME CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO DEVOTING MORE ATTENTION TO NEWS AND FEATURES ABOUT CAMBODIA. OFTEN THERE IS VERY LITTLE WHICH IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO CAMBODIA ON KHMER LANGUAGE BROADCASTS. IF NEWS IS UNAVAILABLE, PERHAPS MORE ATTENTION COULD BE DEVOTED TO BACKGROUND MATERIAL, POSSIBLY OF A HISTORICAL OR LITERARY NATURE.  
SWANK

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980226  
**Subject:** VOA PROGRAMMING  
**TAGS:** PINT, CB  
**To:** EA  
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